



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

March 9, 2016

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

Ms. Eileen Sobeck
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Sobeck,

Enclosed are South Carolina's nominees for the South Carolina obligatory seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) that will become vacant on August 10, 2016. The nominees are listed alphabetically with no reflection of preference.

Mr. Christopher C. Conklin currently holds the South Carolina obligatory seat on the SAFMC and was initially appointed in 2013. He is a second-generation commercial fisherman and makes his income by managing a fleet of commercial fishing boats that supply Seven Seas Seafood Market.

Mr. Wesley A. Covington is an active recreational fisherman who owns Marsh Tacky Carbon, which is a business that manufactures, wholesales, and retails carbon fiber products for recreational fishing. An attorney by trade, he has worked at both the state and local levels. He also serves on the SAFMC Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panel.

James G. Geiger, Ph.D. retired from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on April 1, 2013. He has experience in fisheries research, fisheries management, and fisheries administration in various regions of the United States. Currently, he serves on the Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel for the South Carolina Fishery Management Council.

Mr. David "Wayne" Mershon has been involved full-time in commercial and for-hire fisheries in the South Atlantic for nearly 40 years. Presently, he is owner of Kenyon Seafood in Murrells Inlet and is an active member of SAFMC Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panel.

These candidates are recommended after discussion with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and in consultation with members of the recreational and commercial fishing communities. Thank you for your consideration and please contact Katie Philpott, Director of Boards and Commissions, at 803.201.3423 if you have any questions.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/krp

Enclosures